

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Escambia County, FL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA awarded Escambia County, Florida supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Located in the northwestern part of the state, Escambia County has a geographical area of 661 square miles. Palafox Corridor, the gateway to the City of Pensacola (population 4,401), is the targeted Pilot community. The Palafox Corridor Brownfield Redevelopment Area has approximately 400 properties and 228 vacant acres within its boundaries. The Palafox Corridor is characterized by old houses, solid waste transfer stations, and a multitude of unused railroad spurs. Twenty-seven percent of the city's residents earn less than \$10,000, and approximately 5 percent of the community is unemployed.

The Pensacola area economy depends on military installations, industry, shipping, tourism, agriculture, health care services, and retail trade. The city has suffered economically from industrial and military reshuffling. The combination of low-income employment, lay-offs in older, more established industries, and former industrial contamination has set the stage for much needed economic, environmental, and social redevelopment in Pensacola.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Escambia County, Florida

Date of Announcement:
March 2000

Amount: \$100,000

Profile: The Pilot will continue to target sites within the Palafox Corridor Brownfield Redevelopment Area by conducting additional assessments to encourage redevelopment and reinvestment.

Contacts:

Neighborhood and
Environmental Services
Department
(850) 595-3496

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 4
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Pilot will use the supplemental assistance to continue to address environmental issues and barriers by providing additional assessments in the brownfield area and encouraging reinvestment and redevelopment. The Pilot has been focusing on two properties in the target area; however, the supplemental assistance will enable the Pilot to address additional properties. The long-term goal is to redevelop the Palafox Corridor into a commercial, light industrial, and/or eco-commerce center. One site that is being targeted using supplemental assistance is a seven-acre site that was formerly an auto junk yard and is being considered as a site for a transit-oriented development project and office space.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Identify property owners in the Palafox Corridor Brownfield Redevelopment Area and prioritize sites for redevelopment;
- Conduct environmental assessments on selected sites;
- Develop a market study of the target area, including job training assessment;
- Evaluate site cleanup and reuse options and explore models for redevelopment;

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.